

ROUTING MESSAGE

25X1

Approved For Release 2003/05/14 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100160033-5

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PAGES

CLASSIFICATION

CONFIDENTIAL

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

CIA/DCI/WH/2WH 740916 CIA/WHSS

SOURCE REF:

No Item Number

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TO : IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR FAZIO.4

[REDACTED]

~~ITEM NO. WH-1~~

DATE : 16 SEPTEMBER 1974

SUBJECT: FRENCH TO MAINTAIN INCREASED NAVAL PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN

[REDACTED]

THE FRENCH NAVY IS REPORTEDLY SENDING ANOTHER SQUADRON OF SHIPS TO THE INDIAN OCEAN NEXT MONTH. THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER CLEMENCEAU--CARRYING A MIXED COMPLEMENT OF PLANES AND HELICOPTERS-- WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY A FRIGATE, A DESTROYER, AND TWO OIL TANKERS. A DETACHMENT OF MARINES REPORTEDLY WILL ALSO ACCOMPANY THE FORCE.

THE MOVE REFLECTS A GROWING FRENCH CONCERN THAT THE INDIAN OCEAN, THROUGH WHICH OIL TANKERS SAIL TO EUROPE, NOT ~~BE LEFT IN~~ *BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE DOMAIN* *SOLE CONTROL* OF THE US AND THE USSR.

IN LATE APRIL OF THIS YEAR, PARIS SENT A SQUADRON OF THREE SHIPS TO THE INDIAN OCEAN FOR A CRUISE OF ABOUT SIX MONTHS. THE CARRIER FORCE APPARENTLY WILL REPLACE THE SQUADRON NOW ON PATROL, AND SUGGESTS THAT PARIS INTENDS TO MAINTAIN INDEFINITELY AN INCREASED NAVAL PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN.

SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION :

DATE: 16 SEPT 74

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